Get your FARM HUMMING!

Hummer tall fescue with MaxP® endophyte

Another quality cultivar from...

AGRICOM
Pastures for Profit®
Hummer is Agricom’s new summer active tall fescue. It has shown excellent persistence and maintains its density in the sward. The sod forming characteristics make Hummer easier to manage compared to older tall fescue cultivars.

Hummer was selected for fine soft leaves, high tiller density, persistence and high yielding characteristics. The leaf softness characteristic is a management advantage especially if the fescue stand grows beyond the optimal grazing height.

Hummer can be used for different purposes in farming systems as it can tolerate heavy, wet and moderately saline soils compared to perennial ryegrass.

Hummer also has better heat tolerance, productivity and feed quality than perennial ryegrass over summer whilst providing better water use efficiency under irrigation over summer than ryegrass based pastures.

Hummer is ideal in hot summer environments with moisture such as irrigated dairy pastures as well as sheep and beef operations. It can also be used in a mixed pasture particularly sown with clover increasing overall quality of the pasture.

Key Features

- High quality summer active tall fescue
- Fine, palatable leaf encourages greater utilisation by stock
- Contains MaxP® endophyte for improved persistence and significant yield advantages
- High tiller density from the base of the plant, reducing clumping
- Ideal for hot summer environments with moisture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Endophyte Status</th>
<th>Heading Date</th>
<th>Sowing Rate</th>
<th>Best Grazing Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>MaxP®</td>
<td>Early – Mid</td>
<td>Pure Sward 20 – 25 kg/ha</td>
<td>Rotational</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MaxP® Endophyte

MaxP® is a novel tall fescue endophyte that improves the ability of tall fescue pastures to handle pest attack and moisture stress. MaxP® endophyte offers improved persistence compared to tall fescue without endophyte. In areas with insect pests, trials consistently show significant yield and persistence advantages from using tall fescues with MaxP® endophyte.

The role and importance of endophytes are now becoming more recognised.

A paper on endophyte by Sewell & Hume (et al. 2014) recently published in the journal of Crop and Pasture Science found that tall fescues infected with a selected endophyte (Max P) had improved agronomic performance relative to endophyte-free in a majority of experiments, and on occasions, the endophyte was essential for tall fescue persistence.

In high-stress environments where grass is grown, endophyte was more important for agronomic performance than difference between varieties.


"The Hummer fescue gives us more feed through summer than any ryegrass...it’s a lot softer than the older fescues and the cows will eat it no worries..."

Luke Nicholls,
Pearsondale, Gippsland VIC
Management
Establishment

Best establishment of *Hummer* is achieved by placing seed into firm and moist soil and covering with 10-15 mm of soil. The use of fertiliser at sowing improves establishment of the tall fescue without affecting the clover establishment. A further application of fertiliser (Nitrogen based) is recommended to be applied within the first 6 months after sowing to promote healthy tillering plants, reducing weed invasion.

Tall fescue can be slower than ryegrass to establish and seedlings can be pulled out if grazed too early. Once established tall fescue pastures should be kept relatively short (2 to 3 leaf stage) to maintain pasture quality. During September to November plants will grow rapidly and will try to develop a thick stem and seed head. Preventing the stem developing through frequent grazing will give you quality pasture over late spring and summer that is very leafy and easy to maintain. Management of quickly growing *Hummer* over spring can include quicker grazing rotations to mechanical harvesting such as silage and or hay removal.

**Owen and Kaylene Pedlow** run Highland Court Angus Stud, turning off 50 bulls and 400 feeder steers at 480-540 kg each year from a number of properties across the New England. At their Glen Innes property, they have been monitoring *Hummer* for the past four years.

“The *Hummer* pasture strip is highly productive when it rains, but it has also held on well through the droughts we have had in the past couple of years.... We won’t sow anything other than *Hummer* in our pastures now, until there’s something proven to be better. It’s softer and more palatable, so the cattle graze the *Hummer* more heavily than the rest of the paddock. Usually with test strips, you have to mark them and after a while you can’t see the difference. We can still see where the *Hummer* is growing four years down the track – it’s clearly better than the other fescues we used.”